

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS.

Claims 1-24 (CANCELLED).

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An applicator according to claim 26, wherein:

- ~~each of said needles comprising a base with a rod, a sharpened portion, and a head;~~
- ~~—said rod having its central elongated axis disposed in a first predetermined direction, and having a diameter which is oriented perpendicular to said first predetermined direction;~~
- ~~—said head being wider than the diameter of said rod, and all said heads having their major planar surface disposed in one and only one flat plane which is oriented perpendicular to said first predetermined direction and to said central elongated axis of said rod;~~
- ~~—said needle bases being made of steel, copper, chromium, nickel, or silver, and provided with a coat made of chromium, nickel, copper, or silver;~~

at least a portion of said needles being made with solid and/or partial coats;

and

in the case of partial ~~coating~~ coat of said needle ~~bases~~, the areas ~~close to said adjoining to their~~ sharpened portions ~~thereof are formed by~~ made of at least two materials ~~having which have~~ different electrochemical potentials[[:]].

- ~~said needle bases and coats are made of chemical elements selected from a group additionally including cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium, and alloys and oxides thereof; and~~
- ~~—said needles are arranged in said applicator in such a way that adjacent needles comprise different base and coat materials.~~

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An applicator for use in reflexotherapy, comprising:

[[an]] a flat elastic base member;

a plurality of needles fixed in [[the]] said base member;

each needle comprises a core, a sharpened portion, and a thickened portion;

said thickened portions are fixed in said base member in such way that the sharpened portions protrude from the base member;

one or more ~~portions~~ groups of [[the]] said needles [[are]] have a partially coated core;

one or more ~~portions~~ groups of [[the]] said needles have multilayer coatings of said core and sharpened portion;

one or more ~~portions~~ groups of [[the]] said needles differ from the other ~~portions~~ groups by the materials they are produced of or by the coating materials, which have different electrochemical potentials;

[[the]] said needles and their coatings are fabricated from materials selected from a group comprising steel, copper, chromium, nickel, silver, cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, strontium, tellurium or their alloys and oxides; and

each of said needles [[are]] is placed on the base member in such way that ~~each needle is surrounded by needles, the sharpened portions of which protrude from the base member to the surface, contacting with an user's epidermis; comprised from the materials and/or coating with different electrochemical potentials.~~ adjacent needles are made from materials and/or their alloys with different electrochemical potentials and are designed for contacting an user's skin.